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N I X O N's

Cheshire Prophecy

A T L A R G E.

Published from Lady's COWPER's
correct Copy, in the Reign
of Queen ANNE.

W I T H

Historical and Political Remarks.

A N D

Several INSTANCES wherein it has been
fulfilled.

Also, His L I F E.

*Nixon unfolds the dark Decrees of Fate,
Foretels our Second George shall make us great,
That Gallia's Politics are all a Trance,
For Brunswick's Arm shall conquer wily France.*

Printed and Sold in London.

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Geological Survey

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THE INTRODUCTION.

THIS remarkable Prophecy has been carefully corrected, and an account given of it's author Robert Nixon, who though an idiot, and followed the plow, was in an amazing manner endued with the spirit of prophecy, as the following will plainly shew. As to the credit of this prophecy, I dare say it is as well attested as any of the last century.

I would not have grave persons despise inspirations of Nixon, for the late French King gave audience to an inspired farmer, and rewarded him with one hundred pounds for his propheticall intelligence; tho' by what we can learn, he did not come near unto Nixon for gifts.

The Cheshire prophecy has so many oddities in it, that it cannot fail of being entertaining to the reader; and the simplicity, the circumstances, and the history of it so remarkable, that I could not help communicating it to the publick, who I hope will be as much delighted with it as myself.

By the way, this is not a prophecy of to-day, it is as old as the powder plot ; and the story will make appear, that there is as little imposture in it as the Jacobites pretend there is in the person it seems to have an eye to ; but whether or no they are both impostures or not, I leave it to the Reader to determine.

ROBERT NIXON.



NIXON.

NIXON'S PROPHECY.

IN the reign of King James I. there lived a fool, whose name was Nixon. One day he came from the plough out of the field, and laying down the things he had in his hands, he remained some time in the dumps, and then with a very hoarse voice said, Now I will prophecy. Then he spoke as follows :

When a raven should build in a stone lion's mouth, on the top of a church in Cheshire, then a King of England shall be driven out of his kingdom, and never return more.

When an eagle shall build on the top of the house, then an heir shall be born to the Cholmondley family; and the heir shall live to see England invaded with foreigners, who shall proceed so far as a town in Cheshire; but a miller named Peter shall be born with two heels on one foot, and at that time living in a mill of Mr. Cholmondley's; he shall be instrumental in delivering the nation. The person who then governed the nation will

be in trouble and skulk about. The invading King shall be killed, laid across a horse's back like a calf, and led in triumph. The miller having been instrumental to it shall bring forth the person that the governs the kingdom, and be knighted for what he has done, and after that England shall see happy days. A young new set of men, of virtuous manners, shall come, who shall prosper, and make a flourishing church for 200 years.

As a token of the truth of all this, a wall of Mr. Cholmondley's shall fall: If it falls downwards, the church shall be oppressed, and never rise more; but if upwards, next the rising hill on the side of it, then it shall again flourish. Under this wall shall be found the bones of a British King.

A pond shall run with blood for three days, and the cross stone pillar in the forest sink so low in the ground, that a crow from the top of it shall drink the best blood in England.

A boy shall be born with three thumbs, and shall hold three King's horses, while England shall three times be won and lost in one day.

[7]

The original may be seen in several families in that country, and is particularly in the hands of Mr. Egerton, of Hooton, with many other remarkables, as that Pecsforton windmill shall be removed to Ludditon Hall, and that Olton mill shall be driven with blood instead of water.

All which prophecies have been made manifest in the following manner:

The family of the Cholmondley's is very ancient in Cheshire, and takes its name from a place so called near Nantwich; there are also Chinton and Cholmonston; but the seat of that branch of the family, which kept our prophet Nixon, is at Vale Royal, on the river Wever, in De la Mere forest. It was formerly an Abbey, founded by Edward I. and came to the Cholmondley's, from the famous family of the Holcross. When Nixon prophesied this family was extinct, the heir having married Sir Walter St. John's daughter, a lady not reckoned very young, who, notwithstanding, being with child, fell in labour, and continued so for three days: during which time an eagle sat on the house top, and flew away as she was delivered of a son.

A raven is also known to have built in a stone lion's mouth in the steeple of the church at Over, in the forest of De la Mere. Not long after the abdication of King James the wall spoken of fell down and fell upwards; and in removing the rubbish, were found the bones of a man of more than ordinary size. A pond at the same time ran with water that had a reddish tincture, and was never known to have done so before nor since.

Headless Cross, in the forest, which in the memory of man was several feet high, is now sunk to within half a foot of the ground.

In the parish of Budworth a boy was born with three thumbs about eighteen years ago, the youth is still living there; and the miller Peter lives in Norginshire Mills, in the expectation of fulfilling the prophecy in the person of Perkin. He also has two heels on one foot, but I find he intends to use them in the interest of King George; is zealous for the Protestant succession in the House of Hanover, has a vote for the Knight of the Shire, and gives his vote on the right side. In one sentence, Peter will prate and box for the

good old cause Nixon lifted in, which none bids fairer for; which the Lady Egerton perceiving, and wishing well to another revolution, she very often desired her husband to turn him out of the mill; but he looked upon it as whimsical, and Peter continues there in hopes of being a Knight.

Of this Peter I have been told the Lady Narcliff of Chelsea, and Lady St. John of Battersea, together with several other persons of credit and fashion, have attested the truth of this prophecy.

The noise of Nixon's predictions coming to the ears of the King, he would needs see this fool, who cried, and made much also that he might not go to court, and the reason he gave was, that he should be starved. The King being informed of Nixon's refusing to come, said, he would take particular care that he should not be starved, and ordered him to be brought up. Nixon cried out, he was sent for again; and soon after the messenger arrived, who brought him up from Cheshire. How, or whether he prophesied to his Majesty nobody can tell; but he is not the first fool that has made a good court

prophet. That Nixon might be well provided for, it was ordered that he should be kept in the kitchen; but he grew so troublesome in licking and picking the meat, that the cooks locked him in a hole, and the King going on a sudden from Hampton Court to London. they forgot Nixon in the hurry, and he was starved to death.

There are many passages of this fool-prophet's life and sayings, transmitted by traditions from the fathers in this country, as that when he lived with a farmer, before he was taken into Mr. Cholmondley's family, he goaded an ox so terribly, that one of the ploughmen threatened to beat him for abusing his master's beast. Nixon said, My master's beast will not be his three days. A life in an estate dropping in that time, the Lord of the Manor took the same ox for an harriot.

Among others who attested the facts relating to the above prophecies, was a Mrs. Chute, sister to Mrs. Cholmondley, who affirmed, That a multitude of people gathering together to see the raven before mentioned, the bird was affrighted from her young; that she herself was one; and the cry among the people was, Nixon's

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prophecy is come to pass. and we shall have a foreign King. She declared that she read over the prophecy many times when her sister was with child of the heir who now enjoys the estate. She particularly remembered that King James the II. was there plainly pointed out, and that it was foretold he should endeavour to subvert the laws and religion of this kingdom ; for which reason they should rise and turn him out. That the eagle of which Nixon prophesied, perched in one of the windows the whole time her sister was in labour ; that it was the biggest bird she had ever seen, and that it was in a deep snow ; and that it perched on the edge of a bow window, which had a large border on the outside ; and that she and many others opened the window to scare it away, but it would not move till Mrs. Cholmondley was delivered ; after which it took flight to a great tree over against the room her sister lay in, where having staid three days, it flew away in the night.

That the falling of the garden wall was a thing not to be questioned, it being so

so many people's memory. That it was foretold the heir of Vane Royal should live to see England invaded with foreigners; and that he should fight bravely for his King and country; that the miller is alive, expecting knighthood, and is in the very mill; that it is foretold he should kill two invaders, who would come from the North; that he from the North should bring with him the Swedes, Danes, Germans, and Dutch; and in the folds of his garments he would bring fire, famine, plague, and murder.

That many battles should be fought in England, and one on London bridge, which should be so bloody, that the people should ride up to their horses bellies in blood.

That several battles should be fought in the county Palatine of Cheshire; and that the last in England was to be on De la Mere forest.

That the heir of Orton, whose name is E——, and has married Earl Cholmondley's sister, should be hanged at his own gate.

Laſtly, Nixon foretels great glory and proſperity to thoſe who ſtand in defence of their laws and liberties, and miſery to thoſe who betray them. He ſays, The year before this would happen, bread would be very dear, and the year following much more troubles ſhould begin, which would laſt for three years. That the firſt would be moderate, the ſecond bloody; and the third intolerable; and there was no miſchief but poor England muſt feel at that time; but that George, the ſon of George, ſhould flouriſh, and England be the moſt glorious nation on earth.

Sir Thomas Aſhton ſays, Theſe facts are very well known by every one to have happened juſt as Nixon ſaid they would; adding, that the morning before the garden wall fell, his neighbour, Mr. Cholmondley, going a hunting, ſaid, Nixon ſeldom fails, but now I think he muſt; for he foretold that this day my garden wall ſhould fall, and I think it looks as if it would ſtand forty years. That he had not been gone a quarter of an hour before the wall ſplit, and it fell upwards, againſt the riſing of the hill, which, as

Nixon foretold was the presage of a flourishing state to the church.

As there are several particulars in this prophecy unfilled, so when they come to pass, some other circumstances may be added, that are not conveniently told till accomplished. And we further hope, that from the veracity of the foregoing evidences, the truth of the relate accomplishments of Nixon's Prophecy will not be doubted by the Reader.



THE

T H E

LIFE of *NIXON*,

The CHESHIRE Prophet.

I HAVE read your Cheshire Prophecy, and must needs say that what you have added is to be found in the original, and have now sent you some material passages, to make it compleat; to which I have added a short account of his life, which I have had from one old Woodman, of Copnal, who is now the only man I can meet with that remembered the Prophet.

He says, that Nixon was a short, squab fellow, had a great head and goggle eyes, that he used to drivel as he spoke, which was very seldom, and was extremely furlly.

Against children he particularly had a spite, especially if they made any sport of

without beating. They could seldom get any thing out of him, but Yes and No, unless he was pinched with hunger ; for he had a very good stomach, and could eat up a good hunch of bread and cheese after it.

The first time he was found out to be a Prophet was upon this occasion : F rmer Crowton being one day at work in the field near the river Wexer, and his boy Nixon following him, the boy stopped on a sudden, dropped his bottle and budget, and stood motionless, with his eyes fixed towards heaven ; when he recovered, he took up the things he dropped, and followed the p ough. His master and the men who were at work in the same field, stood by all the while, and thought him in a fit, but wondered he did not fall. He seemed quite insensible of any alteration that had happened to him ; but for about a quarter of an hour he talked very reasonable about several things which had been done some time before, and dropped expressions of o hers that were to be done, which presently made his master and all those about him conclude Nixon's dullness had something sacred in it, and that his

words were oracles, especially when some things he foretold came out according to his prediction. It was with this farmer he lived when he prophesied of his master's ox, as before mentioned in the History.

I must here correct an error which you have been led into, concerning the Wall, which some persons have applied to the church. Whereas, in truth, it related only to the state. For Woodman says, that its fall was to denote some remarkable change in Government, that if it fell inwards on a serene day, it was to be an advantageous change; but if it fell into the brook on a stormy day, then the contrary. To this they added, that the Cholmondley family kept several men in pay to support the Wall, and every month to inspect it all round; that it was buttressed both within and without; and the week before it fell down, the workmen gave in their report, that it was so strong it might reasonably stand an hundred years without repairs. It fell on August 4, 1688, about eleven in the forenoon, being a very calm and cool day; and it fell inwards, all at once, and not so much as one single stone falling outwards.

This happened so short a time before the Revolution, it was taken notice of as an incident much to our advantage, and as the men of Cheshire were as much in the interest of the Prince of Orange as any county in England, why may we not imagine that Nixon's prophecy contributed to it. The objection might be, that Thomas Cholmondley, Esq; was a Jacobite, and that nothing about him could contribute to the Revolution. But his being a Jacobite gives the greater authority to the prediction, and the fulfilling it. For it is not likely that one that was such an enemy to the Prince of Orange, should let a miracle be wrought in favour of the happy change it soon accomplished.

This prophecy also much animated the people of Cheshire, when the rebels advanced to Preston, intending to march through that country into Flintshire, and Denbighshire; and if they had, their rout must have been through De la Mere forest, where Nixon lived and prophesied, and the Miller Peter with his countrymen were determined to have given great credit to your prophecy, which is abused, when it has any interpretation applied to it which

(19)
has an eye to popery and slavery ; for as great a fool as Nixon was, he was not so stupid as many of our modern zealots, nor ever dropped a word against the Protestant religion. But please to pardon the digression, and now I will return to old Woodman.

He further informed me, that after it was known what a prophet farmer Crowton had in his family, Mr. Cholmondley sent for him, and kept him at his house, giving him in charge to his steward, and ordered him to try if he could make any thing of him, and learn him to read ; but Nixon's stupidity increased the more on him, the more the steward endeavoured to improve him ; and the most that he could get out of him was just to make him hold the goad right, and drive the oxen to plow. As he was once in the fields with the rest of Mr. Cholmondley's servants, he let fall his goad on a sudden, as he had done his bottle and budget before. He stood motionless after the same manner, with his eyes fixed towards heaven. The servants talked to him, and beat him, to drive him to work, but to no purpose. He remained in a sort of trance for about an

hour, and then recovering, he took up his goad, and went on his business, as if nothing had befallen him. One of Mr. Cholmondley's men asked what ailed him, and why he stood there so long? To which he replied, He had seen those things he could tell them, and which man never saw before. He then discoursed with the servants, who crowded round him, for near two hours, and spoke as reasonable as the best of them would have done, without hesitation. He foretold the civil wars, the death of Charles I. the restoration of Charles II. the Revolution, a glorious war with France, and the flourishing state of this kingdom after it. Adding, These things will as certainly be, as I shall be sent for by the King, and starved to death. When he had finished his speech, he returned unto his wonted dullness and silence, and was always dull and mute, unless in one of his trances, when he spoke clearly, and with an air of assurance that they would be accomplished. As soon as the servants came home, they informed their master of the prodigy, and Mr. Cholmondley gave them orders to write down as much as they could remember,

which they did, and it is preserved in the family like hidden treasure.

As for Nixon's being sent for to court by King James I. Woodman informs me it was thus : That when he came to the court the King gave him in charge to one of his officers, commanding him to make observations on his behaviour, as he could be assured he was no impostor.

This gentleman kept Nixon locked up, and going in a hurry with King James to Theobalds, he forgot to take care of him, and serve him with provisions, till his return, whereby he was starved to death.

Nixon, it must be observed, could not speak, unless when he came out of his trance, and he could not pronounce one sensible word, more than Aye or No, unless when pronouncing his oracles ; and what is very remarkable, after he came to court, he no ways satisfied their curiosity, for he remained entirely dumb.

Nixon was very grateful to his master Cholmondley, for he prophesied the heir to be born to his family threescore and ten years after, should be endowed with eminent qualifications, and arrive at greater honour than any of his ancestors.

That he should distinguish himself by his loyalty and service to the King then reigning, and after the happy settlement that should succeed the struggle, the peace should be lasting, with a serious of honour and glory unto the nation.

This child, prophesied Nixon, shall be known by the appearance of an eagle at the time of his birth. A long time before the eagle appeared the country people used to look out for it, and as often as the Lady of Vale Royal lay in, they would cry, Where is the eagle? When will Nixon's heir be born? The appearance of the eagle was about twenty-five years ago. The Lady who lay in was aunt to Henry St. John, late Lord Bolinbroke. When she was in labour she heard great shoutings and acclamations of joy, and enquiring the reason, was told the eagle was come.

Upon which her sister and Mrs. J S. who are both living, went to the window, saw the eagle sit on the bow, and looked at it about a quarter of an hour.

It was seen also by several thousands of people, as is such a confirmation of Nix-

on's prophecy, that the truth is not to be doubted by either gentle or simple.

There is some variation in the prophecy concerning the competitors for the kingdom.

The Dutch, Germans, and the Danes are to conquer those that bring fire and famine, plague and murder in the folds of their garments.

None but papists would bring such ruin among protestants.

As to the miller Peter he was born about the time of the Revolution, and Nixon prophesied that he should have two heels on one foot, and be knighted.

The two heels he has got already, but the spurs of knighthood are not yet come to his lot.

Yet, however, the country people in this neighbourhood have knighted him these many years, and honest Peter the miller is now Sir Peter in the mouth of every body.

I must here correct an error of Doctor Addison in his Freeholder, who has not read your prophecy with that attention and regard a thing of such importance deserves; for he gives to the miller two

(24)
heirs. A mistake in the text of a prophecy is of a very dangerous consequence, and I do not doubt but this error will be corrected in future editions, and justice done unto honest Peter the Miller.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

W. E.

Thus having endeavoured, by giving the several recitals and attestations of many persons of probity and veracity, concerning the prophecies of this man; and shall leave the reader to judge of it accordingly. 10 JU 52

F I N I S.